

42390P11803

PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 of the application stand rejected. Claims 6-7, 14-15 and 23-24 have been canceled herein without prejudice to the filing of continuations and/or divisionals. Additionally, Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-13, 17-22, and 25-27 have been amended herein to address minor informalities and clarify the scope of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of pending Claims 1-5, 8-13, 16-22, and 25-27 in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Election/Restrictions under 35 U.S.C. § 121

The Examiner submits that Claims 1-27 as originally filed include two inventions that are distinct from each other. More specifically, the Examiner suggests that Claims 1-5, 8-13, 16-22 and 25-27 are drawn to a statistical dialog system (classified in class 704, subclass 270, hereafter "Group I"), while Claims 6-7, 14-15 and 23-24 are drawn to a dialog semantic learning mechanism (classified in class 704, subclass 270, hereafter "Group II"). As such, the Examiner requested an election between the claims of Group I and Group II under 35 U.S.C. § 121.

Applicant hereby respectfully elects to continue prosecution of the claims in Group I (Claims 1-5, 8-13, 16-22 and 25-27) in the present application. The claims in Group II (Claims 6-7, 14-15 and 23-24) have been canceled herein without prejudice to the filing of continuations and/or divisionals. The Examiner is therefore respectfully invited to proceed with a substantive examination of the claims of Group I.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance of Claims 1-5, 8-13, 16-22 and 25-27 in this case. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 406-2362.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 24, 2004

Sharmini Green
Sharmini N. Green
Senior Attorney
Intel Corporation
Registration No. 41,410
(310) 406-2362